

Water Quality Protection Division



Mississippi Canyon 252 Oil Spill, Gulf of Mexico Region 6 Update

Subject: **Water Quality Division Update # 26**
 Mississippi Canyon 252 Oil Spill, Gulf of Mexico

Date: June 7, 2010

Reporting Period: June 7, 2010 1300 – June 8, 2010 1300

Forecast

- The nearshore oil forecast created by NOAA on 6/6/10 at 2100 CDT for 6/7/10 at 1200 CDT (Figure 1) indicates that the main part of the oil slick will be east of Louisiana. Shoreline impacts are predicted to be from Dauphin Island, AL east towards Freeport, FL. The southerly winds at 10 knots are expected to persist. There are small portions of the oil slick west of the delta and shoreline impacts are expected between Timbalier Bay and Southwest Pass.
- The offshore oil forecast created by NOAA on 6/6/10 at 1900 CDT for 6/7/10 at 1200 CDT (Figure 2) indicates that the sheen observed previously appears to have dissipated in size. The sheen still remains in an eddy on the northern edge of the Loop Current.

Monitoring and Assessment

- Continuing to coordinate with the REOC Environmental Unit on the review of incoming water and sediment quality monitoring data, including results from water samples analyzed for dispersants and sediment toxicity testing results.
- Coordinating access to internal REOC Google Earth file for sampling locations.
- Attending regular meetings and calls with Region 4, HQ, & REOC.

Drinking Water

- Drinking water intakes, public drinking water wells, and domestic wells have not been impacted by the oil sheen and are not projected to be impacted.
- EPA Region 6 is providing the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (LDHH) daily situation report as well as data summaries as they become available.
- EPA Region 6 continues to coordinate closely with the LDHH on all drinking water issues.

Data Management – Mapping Efforts

- Updating the Shoreline Coastal Assessment Team (SCAT) and spill trajectory data.

NPDES

- Participating in discussions on possible R4 permitting of decant water via a new general permit.

- Provided comments on outline of possible Federal Register notice regarding moratorium period denial of new NOIs for OCS general permit.
- NPDES Permits and TMDL Branch continues to be available to provide technical assistance as needed.

Coastal Programs

Louisiana Large-Scale Coastal Barrier Plan:

- Extensive coordination is being conducted through OW regarding implementation of the permit accepted by the State and the associated monitoring plan. Ongoing coordination regarding the State's full application and final engineering designs.

Corps Emergency Authorizations for Coastal Protection Features:

- Coordination is ongoing with the Corps, OW, and Region 4 on a continuing series of emergency authorization requests for incremental work to install booms, sand bags, tiger dams, concrete blocks, and similar structures in the Chandeleur Sound, Barataria Bay, Terrebonne Bay, and adjoining waterways.

OW Ecological Impact Analyses:

- Follow up discussions are underway regarding the Administrator's June 5, 2010, meeting with scientific experts to discuss marsh protection and marsh remediation alternatives and techniques. Coastal programs staff provided a list of experts and contact information, as well as proposing to OW a general framework for discussion during the meeting. Additional, expanded meetings are expected.
- Ongoing coordination, through OW, with the Association of National Estuary Programs and NEP Directors regarding baseline characterization data, habitat and restoration priorities, and a request to OWOW to provide a bridge between the NRDA process and the NEPs.

Corps Navigation Maintenance Dredging:

- Coastal programs staff developed and provided OW with a discussion paper on regulatory issues related to mining the EPA-designated ODMDs as a borrow site for berm construction and the ramifications regarding continued use of the site for disposal of navigation maintenance dredging material. OW, Region 6, and Region 4 expanded the concept and prepared a first draft discussion paper on the wider topic of "Dredged Material and Ocean Dumping Sites Potentially Impacted by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill."

- The oil spill is not currently affecting dredging operations or navigation in the Mississippi River, Southwest Pass (SWP) but, according to the Corps, oil continues to accumulate in the lower portions of South Pass and Pass a Loutre (a borrow site cleared under the Corps' emergency authorization for the LA berm application). Some shoaling and flocculation is being reported and two hopper dredges are working in SW Pass. The Corps is employing oil detection kits on the dredges, a technique coordinated with EPA and Corps research facilities during the 2008 Mississippi River oil spill. In addition, new ship decontamination sites have been established in the lower Mississippi River and Southwest Pass which may be within the area of influence of the EPA-designated ocean disposal site. Ongoing discussions with the Corps.
- Discussions are underway regarding marsh remediation efforts and initial agency coordination is occurring regarding monitoring the long-term landscape-scale coastal habitat impacts.

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA)

- EPA engaged with OCPR in discussions with other state officials to get access for contractors to finish plantings on Whiskey Island as part of TE-50, Whiskey Island Back Barrier Marsh Creation (EPA Sponsored) and TE-52, Barrier Island Vegetation Demonstration (EPA Sponsored).
- Shoreline impacts (Figure 3) and clean up efforts (Table 1) continue along the barrier islands and marshes of the Barataria and Terrebonne basins.
- There have been no changes to the list of CWPPRA projects in the vicinity of oil impacted areas since 6/4/2010.



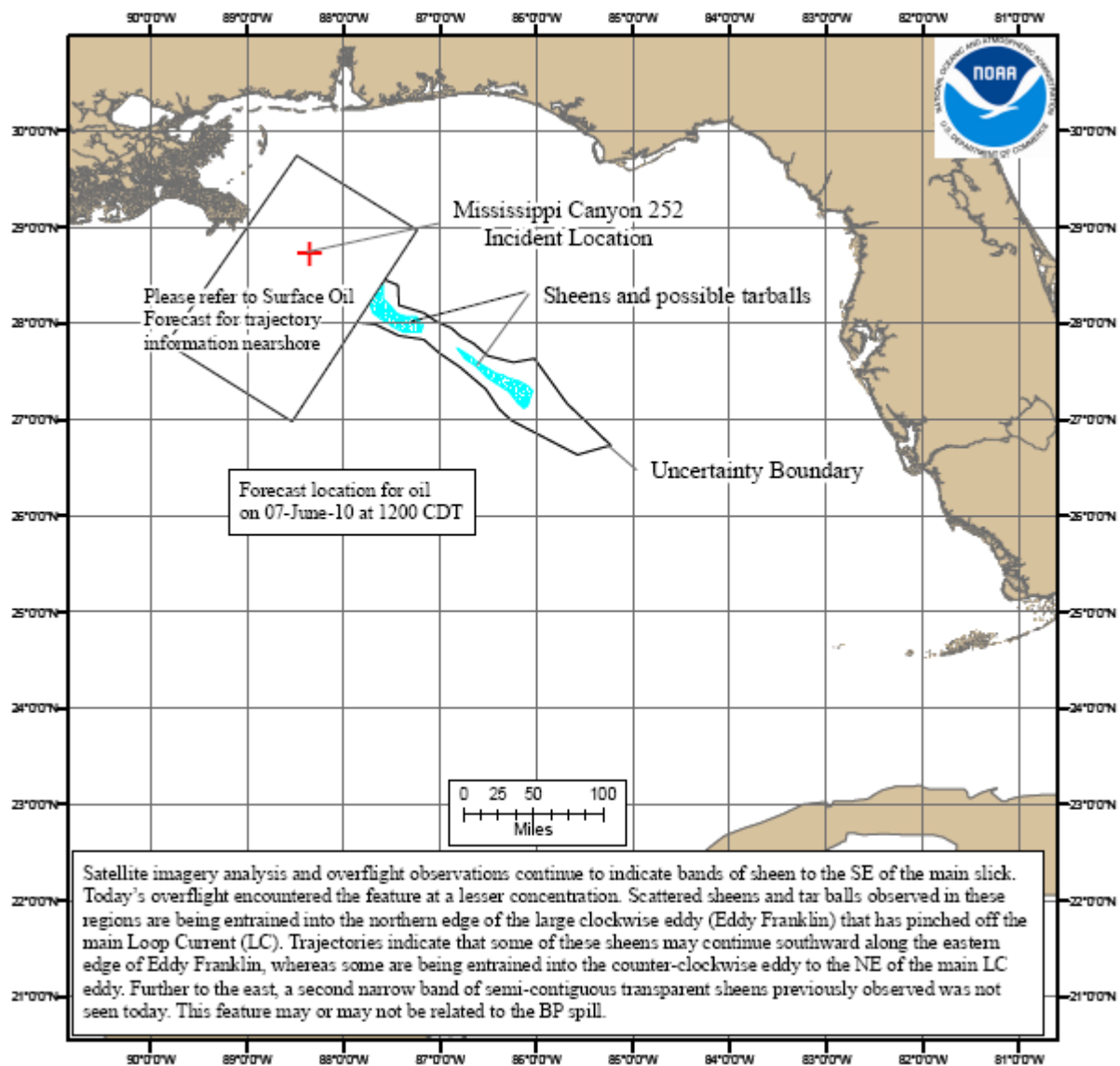


Figure 2 NOAA offshore oil slick trajectory forecast for 6/4/10.

<http://www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com/go/doctype/2931/53979/>

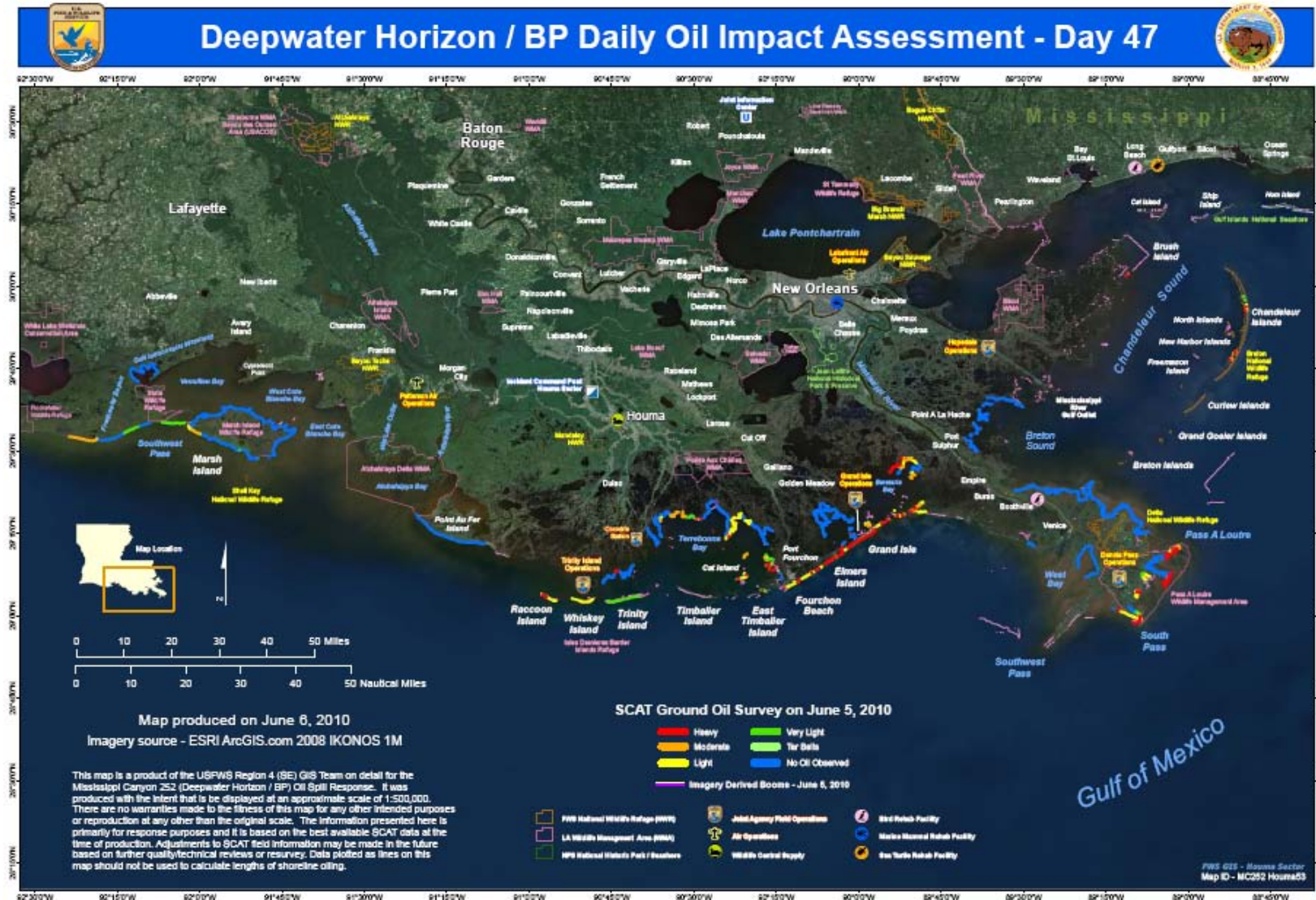


Figure 3 Oil Impact Assessment Map created on June 3, 2010 by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

<http://www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com/go/doctype/2931/53979/>

Shoreline Impact Areas	Stage	Parish	Miles Impacted	Progress
Southpass Inner Sandbar	Venice	Plaquemines	2.78	80% complete
Pilot Bayou/Johnson Pass	Venice	Plaquemines	1.5	using containment boom
Pass a L'outre/Red Fish Bay	Venice	Plaquemines	4	70% complete, 43bbbs removed
Inner Area Southpass	Venice	Plaquemines	1.49	
Chandeleur Island	Hopedale	St. Bernard	7.2	100% complete, ST more oiling, booming
Grand Isle/Elmer's Island	Grand Isle	Jefferson	7.6	Heavy Re-Oiling 6/03/10, 85% complete
Isle Grande Terre	Grand Isle	Plaquemines	1.77	shoreline cleanup ops
Brush Island	Hopedale	St. Bernard	1.33	100% complete
Lake Raccourci	Fourchon	LaFourche	0.8	light
Chenier Au Tigre	St. Mary	Vermillion	0.7	100% complete
Trinity Island	Cocodrie	Terrebonne	0.48	minor re-oiling, 1 day till 100%
Fourchon Beach	Fourchon	LaFourche	3.75	90% complete
Timbalier Bay	Fourchon	LaFourche	0.43	sorbent boom change out
Lake Felicity	Cocodrie	Terrebonne	1	sorbent boom change out
Marsh Island	St. Mary	Iberia	0.4	100% complete
Marsh Island	St. Mary	Iberia	0.2	100% complete

Table 1 Deepwater Horizon shoreline impacts and status of cleanup. Information provided by EPA On Scene Coordinator web page. Created for 6/6/10